

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING HISTORY DATA TO SELLERS ABOUT INTERNET AUCTIONS
AND MARKETPLACES

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ABSTRACT

10 The present invention provides a method and apparatus to allow sellers at
online auctions to optimize the way they sell items and get the best possible price
for the items. The invention provides a method for searching a database for data on
previous sales of similar items at online auction websites. The data can then be
summarized and graphed. Using this data, the seller can make his own conclusions
about the best way to sell his item, or he can get a recommendation from the
invention about the best way to sell the item. If data about similar items are not
15 available in the database, the invention allows the seller to start an agent
program that will search various auction sites for the data over a period of time.